

THANK YOU, CHUCK MILHEM

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the most important and valuable resource we have in this country is our children. Providing a safe environment for them to grow and mature has always been this country's No. 1 priority. People who dedicate their time and energy to making this possible are most deserving of our praise and thanks. Mr. Chuck Milhem is one of those people. He is being honored on September 11, 1996, by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bay County Inc., with its Eighth Annual Helping Hand Award for his more than 10 years of support and dedication to this outstanding organization.

Chuck Milhem was born in 1929, the year the stock market crashed. He grew up in a tough, lower east side neighborhood in Detroit, and learned early the importance of community centers for children. His time there not only provided an alternative to gang activities but convinced him that higher education was the road to a better future. Chuck attended Wayne State University in Detroit and after leaving to join the Navy during the Korean war, returned to complete his degree. While working at a bank to help defer college costs, Chuck was introduced to the world of coin-operated vending machines. This interest eventually led him to accept a job with Brunswick.

At Brunswick, Chuck was instrumental in the introduction and widespread popularity of the coin-operated air hockey table. Chuck's talent and success did not go unnoticed and eventually led him to the presidency of Valley Recreation Products from 1979 to 1994. Always a leader, Chuck helped found the VNEA, Valley National Eight Ball Association. Today the VNEA has 200 operators and almost 50,000 sanctioned players. The VNEA's concentration on youth leagues reflects Chuck's concern and commitment to American children. As Mr. Milhem knows so well, "Giving youngsters a place to excel at something, no matter what the circumstances at home, is not to be taken lightly."

The caring and concern Chuck Milhem has shown to both his career and his community serve as an example to all of us. Many of us talk about making the world a safer place for our children but few do anything about it. Chuck Milhem has not only made it happen but has made a lasting commitment of over 10 years to make it happen. How many of us can say that?

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Chuck Milhem, his wife Florence, and his children Laurel and Janice, for his well-deserved honor from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bay County.

HONORING NORRIS JAMES QUINN
IN THE DEDICATION OF THE
FIRE TRAINING CENTER IN HIS
NAME

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today it brings me great pleasure to recognize

fire drillmaster Norris James Quinn who devoted 40 years of public service to the people of Springfield, MA. In his first 20 years of commitment to the city, Quinn was promoted through the ranks first to lieutenant, and then to captain, culminating with his appointment as permanent drillmaster (chief of training). In this capacity, Chief Quinn greatly contributed to the establishment of a new fire training center.

In 1968, Chief Quinn began the search throughout the city for a site for land to construct the new facility. After weeks of planning and preparation by Quinn, his dream of a state-of-the-art fire training center was realized. Since its completion, the training center has instructed countless firefighters. His commitment to the safety of his fellow firefighters has in turn greatly aided the community as a whole.

I served as the mayor of Springfield when Chief Quinn retired in 1987 and was proud to have such an outstanding citizen serving the city. His legacy shall carry on as future generations of firefighters benefit from Quinn's achievement. On Tuesday, September 17, 1996 this facility will be renamed the "Norris J. Quinn Fire Training Center". It is fitting that this institution be named after a man that devoted much of his profession in the training of Springfield's firefighters. I salute Chief Quinn for his distinguished career and offer my heartfelt congratulations for this great honor of which he is so deserving.

REMARKS ON THE 80TH BIRTHDAY
OF STANLEY A. DASHEW

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, few at 80 can sail a large boat, take professional-caliber photographs, work out at the gym for 2-hour stints several times a week, help to build new entrepreneurial ventures, and new buildings for UCLA's International Student Center.

Stan Dashew can.

In the close to 40 years I've known him—half his life and most of mine—he has never disappointed. Always creative. Always caring. Always ready to make the most of his day.

He brought enormous happiness to his late wife, Rita, an extraordinary woman whom I called my godmother. When Rita died suddenly, Stan's obituary in the Los Angeles Times describing their last evening together was as moving a testament about a marriage as could ever be written.

Since Rita's death, Stan has moved on with life—as creative and caring as ever. He remains a devoted father, stepfather, and grandfather, and now a happy partner to Elizabeth.

No past-tense is necessary. Stan is living the American dream. The son of immigrants who grew up during the Depression, he built Dashew Business Machines into a major producer of magnetic entry cards, bank credit cards, transmit systems, offshore mooring buoys, and more recently, unique bow thrusters for ships.

Many years ago he sailed to California from Michigan with his young family. No doubt he will set out on new voyages in the future.

Happy Birthday Stan.

SALUTE TO LT. GEN. EDWARD J.
BRONARS

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, in today's Washington Times, my good friend Lt. Col. Ollie North provides a fitting tribute to Lt. Gen. Edward J. Bronars, a true American war hero. [From the Washington Times, Sept. 10, 1996]

FAREWELL SALUTE TO A HERO FOR ALL
SEASONS

(By Ollie North)

America has lost one of its true heroes and I have lost a great friend. Last Friday, Lt. Gen. Edward J. Bronars, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), war hero, husband, father, mentor and steadfast ally in the face of adversity, died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

First and last, Ed Bronars was a patriot. He spent his entire adult life in selfless service to our country. Born on April 12, 1927, in Chicago, he was graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1950 and was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps. During his 32-year career with the Corps, Gen. Bronars served in two wars—Korean and Vietnam—and the chest of his forest green uniform carried the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for valor.

And while he was respected and admired by fellow Marines for his intelligence, courage and professionalism, few outside of his family and close friends knew of the risks he had taken for our country "behind the lines" in Eastern Europe during the now long-forgotten Cold War. But the selection boards knew—and so in 1979 Ed Bronars was promoted to lieutenant general—the second highest designation in the USMC. When he retired from the Marines in 1982 he was the deputy chief of staff for manpower at Headquarters Marine Corps.

But retirement for Ed Bronars didn't really mean "retirement." From 1982 to 1985, he served as the president of the Navy Relief Society, a private, non-profit, volunteer supported organization dedicated to helping young military personnel and their families. From 1986 to 1987, Gen. Bronars served as executive director of the Association of Military Schools and Colleges and, then in 1987 he volunteered to become the administrator of the Legal Defense Fund established by my Naval Academy Classmates.

Why did a retired general jump from a nice, soft job as the executive director of one of Washington's many Associations—to heading up the legal defense fund of a fellow who was having the book thrown at him by the entire Washington establishment—and the mainstream media to-boot? For Ed Bronars it was easy—one of his own was in trouble—a whole lot of trouble! And Ed Bronars knew what the words of the Marine Corps motto—Semper Fidelis—meant.

When we were both on active duty, Gen. Bronars had been my division commander, and in 1981, he had selected me to serve on Ronald Reagan's National Security Council Staff. He knew of my reservations about the assignment—and he knew how hard I had tried to get out of it to go back to the Marines. Now—the guy he'd ordered to the White House needed help—and Ed Bronars was there.

It was Ed Bronars' careful steady hand, his unquestioned integrity and his perseverance that made it possible for us to pay the millions in legal bills we accrued in the great

Iran-Contra controversy. Without his steadfast help, unwavering encouragement and good counsel, the long ordeal of 1986-1989 could well have been an unbearable burden for my family and me.

And later it was Gen. Bronars who encouraged me to start Freedom Alliance; the 5091(c)(3) non-profit, charitable and educational organization I founded in 1990. In March 1991, Gen. Bronars became the chairman of the board of Freedom Alliance and served in that capacity until his death.

At Freedom Alliance, Gen. Bronars led Operation Homefront, a campaign which supplied over 125,000 care packages to the men and women serving in the Persian Gulf War. He also originated the HEROes Scholarship Program (Honoring, Educating, and Remembering Our Survivors) which provided up to \$10,000 in educational grants to the surviving family members of Gulf war casualties, and the CAST Program (Casualty Assistance Support Team), a \$50,000 grant from Freedom Alliance, administered by military chaplains to assist family members in visiting their loved ones in military hospitals as a result of wounds in the Persian Gulf War.

Gen. Bronars also became a public advocate for the readiness and integrity of the U.S. Armed Forces. He testified before the Bush administration's Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces, and with the voice of experience, warned of the dangers in placing women directly into the horror of combat. He did the same in opposing the Clinton administration's proposals regarding homosexuals in our armed forces.

And with all of this, he still devoted time to the Marine Corps Scholarship Fund and the Young Marines program for at-risk youth. In all he did, Ed Bronars sought no recognition, no honor, no praise for countless hours of toil and trouble. In every event his good humor would prevail over the naysayers, his perseverance inspired the weary and his friendship offset the adversaries.

Many knew Ed Bronars as a great leader. A good number knew he was a steadfast patriot. A handful knew him as a war hero. The beautiful Dot Bronars knew him as her husband. Bruce and Bobbi knew him as their Dad. I was blessed to have him as a faithful friend. Semper Fidelis, we'll miss you, Ed!

INTRODUCTION OF SENATE-PASSED MENTAL HEALTH PARITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the identical bill the Senate passed on September 5 by 82-15, offered by Senator DOMENICI, WELLSTONE, and many others, to provide mental health lifetime and annual cap parity.

I would like to see much more extensive mental health legislation passed. I would like to see an elimination of all caps, in both physical and mental health, but this bill is a step forward, has widespread support, and is the least we can and should do in this Congress.

If the House can pass identical legislation this month, this incremental health reform could become law this year and begin to help innumerable families who face the crisis of paying for mental health needs.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Mental Health Parity Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. PLAN PROTECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS.

(a) PERMISSIBLE COVERAGE LIMITS UNDER A GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—

(1) AGGREGATE LIFETIME LIMITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a group health plan offered by a health insurance issuer, that applies an aggregate lifetime limit to plan payments for medical or surgical services covered under the plan, if such plan also provides a mental health benefit such plan shall—

(i) include plan payments made for mental health services under the plan in such aggregate lifetime limit; or

(ii) establish a separate aggregate lifetime limit applicable to plan payments for mental health services under which the dollar amount of such limit (with respect to mental health services) is equal to or greater than the dollar amount of the aggregate lifetime limit on plan payments for medical or surgical services.

(B) NO LIFETIME LIMIT.—With respect to a group health plan offered by a health insurance issuer, that does not apply an aggregate lifetime limit to plan payments for medical or surgical services covered under the plan, such plan may not apply an aggregate lifetime limit to plan payments for mental health services covered under the plan.

(2) ANNUAL LIMITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a group health plan offered by a health insurance issuer, that applies an annual limit to plan payments for medical or surgical services covered under the plan, if such plan also provides a mental health benefit such plan shall—

(i) include plan payments made for mental health services under the plan in such annual limit; or

(ii) establish a separate annual limit applicable to plan payments for mental health services under which the dollar amount of such limit (with respect to mental health services) is equal to or greater than the dollar amount of the annual limit on plan payments for medical or surgical services.

(B) NO ANNUAL LIMIT.—With respect to a group health plan offered by a health insurance issuer, that does not apply an annual limit to plan payments for medical or surgical services covered under the plan, such plan may not apply an annual limit to plan payments for mental health services covered under the plan.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting a group health plan offered by a health insurance issuer, from—

(A) utilizing other forms of cost containment not prohibited under subsection (a); or

(B) applying requirements that make distinctions between acute care and chronic care.

(2) NONAPPLICABILITY.—This section shall not apply to—

(A) substance abuse or chemical dependency benefits; or

(B) health benefits or health plans paid for under title XVIII or XIX of the Social Security Act.

(3) STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt any State law that provides for greater parity with respect to mental health benefits than that required under this section.

(c) SMALL EMPLOYER EXEMPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall not apply to plans maintained by employers that employ less than 26 employees.

(2) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN RULES IN DETERMINATION OF EMPLOYER SIZE.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) APPLICATION OF AGGREGATION RULE FOR EMPLOYERS.—All persons treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be treated as 1 employer.

(B) EMPLOYERS NOT IN EXISTENCE IN PRECEDING YEAR.—In the case of an employer which was not in existence throughout the preceding calendar year, the determination of whether such employer is a small employer shall be based on the average number of employees that it is reasonably expected such employer will employ on business days in the current calendar year.

(C) PREDECESSORS.—Any reference in this subsection to an employer shall include a reference to any predecessor of such employer.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this title:

(1) GROUP HEALTH PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "group health plan" means an employee welfare benefit plan (as defined in section 3(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) to the extent that the plan provides medical care (as defined in paragraph (2)) and including items and services paid for as medical care) to employees or their dependents (as defined under the terms of the plan) directly or through insurance, reimbursement, or otherwise.

(B) MEDICAL CARE.—The term "medical care" means amounts paid for—

(i) the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, or amounts paid for the purpose of affecting any structure or function of the body.

(ii) amounts paid for transportation primarily for and essential to medical care referred to in clause (i), and

(iii) amounts paid for insurance covering medical care referred to in clauses (i) and (ii).

(2) HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—The term "health insurance coverage" means benefits consisting of medical care (provided directly, through insurance or reimbursement, or otherwise and including items and services paid for as medical care) under any hospital or medical service policy or certificate, hospital or medical service plan contract, or health maintenance organization contract offered by a health insurance issuer.

(3) HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUER.—The term "health insurance issuer" means an insurance company, insurance service, or insurance organization (including a health maintenance organization, as defined in paragraph (4)) which is licensed to engage in the business of insurance in a State and which is subject to State law which regulates insurance (within the meaning of section 514(b)(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974), and includes a plan sponsor described in section 3(16)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 in the case of a group health plan which is an employee welfare benefit plan (as defined in section 3(1) of such Act). Such term does not include a group health plan.

(4) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION.—The term "health maintenance organization" means—

(A) a federally qualified health maintenance organization (as defined in section 1301(a) of the Public Health Service Act).

(B) an organization recognized under State law as a health maintenance organization, or

(C) a similar organization regulated under State law for solvency in the same manner